



03500.015028

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

KATSUHIKO HARA

Application No.: 09/749,731

Filed: December 28, 2000

For: IMAGE PROCESSING  
APPARATUS AND METHOD

Group Art Unit: 2852

October 29, 2002

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

U.S. Patent 5,485,287  
U.S. Patent 5,999,654  
Germany 43-02-391  
Germany 44-08-522  
Europe 893,766  
Japan 61-164377

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report is enclosed. Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3).

The concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents cited above is provided in the European Search Report and by the English language abstracts

included with the cited art. The Examiner is, of course, referred to the European Examiner's comments on the English language documents as well.

The European Search Report lists Great Britain 2,264,022 as an English language counterpart to German 4,302,391; a copy of that document is enclosed and is also listed on Form PTO-1449. The European Search Report does not list English language counterparts of German 4,408,522, but an English language abstract has been located and is enclosed.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)				ATTY DOCKET NO. <b>03500.015028</b>		APPLICATION NO. <b>09/749,731</b>	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;">             RECEIVED              OCT 30 2002              PATENT &amp; TRADEMARK OFFICE           </div>				APPLICANT <b>KATSUHIKO HARA</b>			
				FILING DATE <b>December 28, 2000</b>		GROUP <b>2852</b>	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
EP		5,485,287	1/16/96	Nakamura, et al.	358	426	
EP		5,999,654	12/7/99	Toujima, et al.	382	232	
					<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">             RECEIVED              NOV 05 2002              Technology Center 2600           </div>		
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
EP		4,408,522	9/22/94	Germany			Abstract
EP		4,302,391	8/5/93	Germany			Abstract
EP		893,766	1/27/99	Europe			
EP		61-164377	7/25/86	Japan			Abstract
		2,264,022	8/11/93	Great Britain			
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1

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